

From: Ware, Jawahn JWare@dougherty.ga.us
Subject: RE: RE: Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org (Elections 2019.05.20)
Date: June 25, 2019 at 11:42 AM
To: American Oversight FOIA foia@americanoversight.org

JW

Dear American Oversight FOIA-

Thank you for contacting Dougherty County Board of Commissioners.

Though the law does not require us to engage in a question and answer session, I will respond to your inquiry.

To attempt to fulfill your request for email communications, our technology and communications department conducted an electronic inquiry based on the criteria listed below on the name of the entity or person and email addresses provided during the time period specified and no records were found with our election official Ginger Nickerson.

To attempt to fulfill your request for other communications, our elections office did a physical search based upon the same criteria and did not find any records.

You are welcome to create a **new request with a different criteria** if desired.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners
"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: American Oversight FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 10:26 AM
To: Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
Subject: Re: <Response> RE: Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org (Elections 2019.05.20)

Jawahn:

Thank you for your reply. Could you please describe how you conducted a search to determine that no responsive records exist? For example, if it was an electronic search, whose files were searched and what terms were used? If it was not an electronic search, please describe what method you used.

On Jun 24, 2019, at 4:55 PM, Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us> wrote:

Greetings-

Dougherty County, GA has processed your request and have no documents for your inquiry.

Even though there was time spent processing your request, there will no charge assessed.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners

"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: Ware, Jawahn
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 4:05 PM
To: American Oversight FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Subject: <Confirmation of Request> RE: Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org (Elections 2019.05.20)

Greetings-

Based on your email dated June 14, 2019, Dougherty County, GA will proceed with your open records request.

For clarification, between our entity and foia@americanoversight.org, the following is understood:

- The request is for all communications as outlined on the attached document between the 18 listed entities and Ginger Nickerson.
- The date range specified is from November 9, 2016 to June 14, 2019
- The estimated cost of this request is estimated to be a minimum of \$200, to which an invoice of the exact cost will be provided.
- We request to provide a full response to the inquiry by June 27, 2019.

If there is a modification requested, we must have it received by noon on Monday, June 17, 2019.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners

"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: American Oversight FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
Subject: Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org (Elections 2019.05.20)

Hello,

We would like to proceed with the request as to communications involving Ms. Nickerson.

Best

Best,
Beth

On Jun 11, 2019, at 5:35 PM, Ware, Jawahn
<JWare@dougherty.ga.us> wrote:

Greetings-

Please see your initial request.

You have requested **all** communications between our elections official and eighteen individuals/entities for almost a 3 year span.

Your estimation was provided prior to you inquiring about limiting it to one individual.

In a similar search by another entity, the result generated almost 500 pages for one particular email (not all correspondences) and that cost was \$65.00.

No search has been conducted for your inquiry because American Oversight FOIA has not agreed to the cost.

Because I am receiving multiple requests from your company under different emails it is imperative to please reply stating your desire to continue with the request as received, cease with the request, or continue with a revised modification. The modification to the request needs to be written. Please change or add to the **subject – Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org (Elections 2019.05.20)**

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners
"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: American Oversight FOIA <foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 4:39 PM
To: Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
Subject: Re: <Receipt and confirmation to proceed required>:
Open Records Request

Thank you for responding.

I am a little confused about what search was covered by the estimated costs exceeding \$200. What custodians apart from Ms. Nickerson were included in that estimate? What are their roles?

Best,
Beth

On Jun 3, 2019, at 9:37 AM, Ware, Jawahn
<JWare@dougherty.ga.us> wrote:

Good morning-

Mrs. Nickerson is the only election official; the other individuals are volunteers.

Based upon this additional information please reply stating your desire to continue with the request as received, cease with the request, or continue with a revised modification. The modification to the request needs to be written. Please change or add to the **subject – Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org**.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners
"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: American Oversight FOIA
<foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2019 6:37 PM
To: Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
Subject: Re: <Receipt and confirmation to proceed required>: Open Records Request

Hello,

Thank you for your reply. Are there other election officials for whom others are custodians of records? Before we approve this cost estimate, we would like to understand whether the search of Mrs. Nickerson's records will respond fully to our search or whether other custodians of records would need to be involved to locate all records responsive to our request.

Best,
Beth

On May 22, 2019, at 11:15 AM, Ware, Jawahn <JWare@dougherty.ga.us> wrote:

Greetings-

The only election official that I am the custodian of records for is Mrs. Ginger Nickerson, Elections Supervisor.

If your search is narrowed to her, we will still anticipate the cost being over \$100 due to the length of the report and physical redaction.

Please remember to proceed a reply as listed below in in the email dated May 20, 2019 at 4:31 p.m.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware
Dougherty County Board of Commissioners
"We must become the change we want to see" -Mahatma Gandhi

From: American Oversight FOIA
<foia@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Ware, Jawahn
<JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
Subject: Re: <Receipt and confirmation to proceed required>: Open Records Request
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Would you be able to provide a list of the election officials (by title), so that we can narrow the request to certain custodians? That has been a very successful approach to proceed efficiently with similar requests in other counties.

Thanks,
Beth

On May 20, 2019, at 4:31 PM, Ware, Jawahn
<JWare@dougherty.ga.us>
wrote:

Dear
- foia@americanoversight.org

Your email dated May 9, 2019 has been received by me on May 19, 2019.

During my absence an out of office alert was automatically sent with the alternate point of contact for Open Records Requests. That individual confirmed that that they did not receive your request.

However, you are correct, I am the officer for Dougherty County, GA.

Please be advised that State Law OCGA 50-18-719 (d) requires that we notify you if we anticipate the cost of the request exceeding \$25 and confirm that you are willing to remit payment for the documents prior to fulfilling the request. Your request involves searching and retrieving records from November 9, 2016. Therefore, we would anticipate your cost exceeding \$200. To minimize cost, you would be encouraged to reduce the date criteria.

Please reply stating our desire to continue with the request as received, cease

with the request, or continue with a revised modification. The modification to the request needs to be written. Please change or add to the **subject – Clarification of Open Records Request – foia@americanoversight.org**.

Sincerely,

Jawahn E. Ware

Certified County
Clerk/Procurement Manager
Dougherty County, GA
229-431-2121 (office)
229-438-3967 (fax)

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Henry Ford

From: American Oversight
FOIA

<foia@americanoversight.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019
1:45 PM

To: Ware, Jawahn
<JWare@dougherty.ga.us>

Subject: Fwd: Open
Records Request

Good afternoon,

We were advised by Ginger Nickerson at Albany/Dougherty County Voter Registration and Elections that the attached request should have been routed to you. Could you please confirm receipt and that you are the appropriate contact person for the attached request, which seeks communications including county election officials.

Thanks,

Beth

Begin forwarded message:

From: American Oversight FOIA
<foia@americanoversight.org>
Subject: Open Records Request
Date: April 22, 2019 at 4:18:42 PM EDT
To: gnickerson@dougherty.ga.us

Dear Open Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Georgia's Open Records Law.

Sincerely,

Beth France
Counsel
American Oversight
foia@americanoversight.org | 202.897.2465
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

GA-

DOUGHERTY-
19-0520

PUBLIC RECORDS NOTICE: Georgia has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from City and County officials regarding City and County business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your email communications may be subject to public disclosure.

<GA-DOUGHERTY-19-
0520.pdf>

